

REMARKS

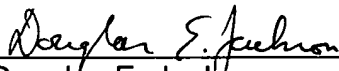
By this Amendment, the claims have been rewritten to reduce the multiple dependencies and to place the claims in better conformance with US practice.

Further and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An agricultural or horticultural granular composition comprising the water-dispersible granules having a low foamability, characterized in that the composition comprises:

(a) at least one of a solid or liquid, agrochemically active ingredient as an active ingredient,

(b) at least one of a surfactant selected from a sulfonate-type surfactant, a sulfate-type surfactant and a phosphate-type surfactant, and

(c) at least one of a metal salt of a fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms, as an antifoaming agent.

2. (Original) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt (c) of a fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms as the antifoaming agent is a water-soluble ($C_6 - C_{28}$) fatty acid alkaline metal salt or comprises a mixture of at least two of the water-soluble ($C_6 - C_{28}$) fatty acid alkaline metal salt, or said metal salt (c) is a ($C_6 - C_{28}$) fatty acid metal salt (excluding said alkaline metal salt) having a solubility in water of 100 ppm or less at 20°C or comprises a mixture of at least two of said ($C_6 - C_{28}$) fatty acid metal salt.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the water-soluble ($C_6 - C_{28}$) fatty acid alkaline metal salt is one of a sodium salt or potassium salt of the fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms or comprises a mixture of at least two of the ($C_6 - C_{28}$) fatty acid sodium or potassium salt.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the metal salt (c) of the fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms as the antifoaming agent comprises a mixture of sodium salts of mixed fatty acids consisting of different fatty acids of 6 to 28 carbon atoms, which mixture of the sodium salts namely means a soap.

5. (Original) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the (C₆ – C₂₈) fatty acid metal salt having a solubility in water of 100 ppm or less at 20°C comprises at least one of or a mixture of at least two of lithium salt, barium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt and zinc salt of the (C₆ – C₂₈) fatty acid.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein at least one of or a mixture of at least two of the surfactant (b) comprises a sulfonate-type surfactant.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein the granules in the composition additionally comprise a solid carrier as an optional component.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the agrochemically active ingredient (a) is contained in a proportion of 0.1 to 85% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the surfactant (b) is contained in a proportion of 0.5 to 30% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the fatty acid metal salt (c) as the antifoaming agent is contained in a proportion of 0.05 to 10% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition according to ~~claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the composition comprises the solid carrier in a proportion of 5 to 95% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.